



February 18, 2004

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, DC 20231

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Technology Center 2600

**PROTEST UNDER 37 CFR 1.291(a)**

Re: Targeted advertising for commuters with mobile IP  
terminals

US File # **20020107027**

Filed: 12/6/2000

Sirs:

Recently I found the above referenced patent filing and believe this filing has NOT issued in the U.S. The US File # is **20020107027**

I am voicing an objection as a concerned third party and as a U.S. Citizen. The patent filing describes at great length an advertising delivery system dependent upon a database maintained at the client level in a client-server ad delivery system. The appropriate ads are selected through profiling techniques at the server level then a database is created and downloaded via Bluetooth, a short-range wireless technology (0059) to a "smart automobile" containing a mobile wireless terminal (0003) that delivers advertising based upon location as well as program selection and vehicle statistics (0069) while in a vehicle. Uploads and downloads of advertisements are performed through broadband wireless internet communications.

The relevant Claims presented are Claims 1, 10, 20, 30. The abstract reads, "An advertising server stores data of both consumers and merchants. Consumer data includes samples of a consumer's location at various points along routes taken by a consumer's mobile IP terminal. Merchant data includes the geographic locations of the merchant's stores. The advertising server uses the consumer and merchant data to select merchants located in proximity to paths frequently traveled by a consumer. Merchant selection may take into account other factors such as demographics. The advertising server then provides selected merchant servers with an opportunity to have the advertising server deliver advertisements to the consumer on the merchant's behalf. Based on consumer data provided by the advertising server and predetermined criteria established by the merchant, each merchant server transmits an advertisement and a "willingness to pay" to the advertising server. The advertising server

receives the responses and transmits to the consumer the advertisements associated with a sufficient willingness to pay for delivery. "

Consistently, the inventor describes the invention in internet terms (0034) ... because it is simply an extension of an electronic communications network like the internet relating to advertising delivery. Driving a vehicle from Point A to Point B is a purely voluntary exercise similar to surfing the internet and going to web sites at will. In a location based system, advertising is delivered based upon this voluntary user action in one form or another, albeit radio or a monitor screen or warning messages, to an "advertising server" maintained at the vehicle (Claim 30) maintained dynamically at the client level in the vehicle. The ads are then delivered to the user consequential to his or her actions. Descriptions of these actions and functions are described in (0054) (0057) (0062) (0063) (0064) and (0069).

This is referred to as "pull" advertising as a voluntary action on the part of a user interacts with a pre-established database and a targeted ad is displayed.

I am objecting to this patent filing as it is neither novel nor unique. It is of particular note that no prior art was submitted with this filing and only some vague references to server and user supplied profiling systems. The filers are correct that a targeted system based on URLs or keywords is more accurate and excels in its ability to deliver "relevant" ads at the exact moment of interest. However, the filers did not include the following references:

1. US Patent 6,141,010 ... similar technology
2. Gator.com (recently changed to Claria.com) has been marketing such a system since 1998 or 1999
3. WO9955066 (A1) or EP1076983 (A1) ... similar technology

There may be more prior art preceding the 12/6/2000 filing.

I believe the Examiner should look very closely at the Claim made and judge accordingly.

United States Patent 6,141,010 - Netscape

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United States Patent 6,141,010

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United States Patent  
Hoyle

6,141,010  
October 31, 2000

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#### Computer interface method and apparatus with targeted advertising

##### Abstract

A method and apparatus for providing an automatically upgradeable software application that includes targeted advertising based upon demographics and user interaction with the computer. The software application is a graphical user interface that includes a display region used for banner advertising that is downloaded from time to time over a network such as the Internet. The software application is accessible from a server via the Internet and demographic information on the user is acquired by the server and used for determining what banner advertising will be sent to the user. The software application further targets the advertisements in response to normal user interaction, or use, of the computer. Associated with each banner advertisement is a set of data that is used by the software application in determining when a particular banner is to be displayed. This includes the specification of certain programs that the user may have so that, when the user runs the program (such as a spreadsheet program), an advertisement will be displayed that is relevant to that program (such as an advertisement for a stock brokerage). This provides two-tiered, real-time targeting of advertising--both demographically and reactively. The software application includes programming that accesses the server on occasion to determine if one or more components of the application need upgrading to a newer version. If so, the components are downloaded and installed without requiring any input or action by the user.

